

For Immediate Release July 16, 2001

World's Largest Biplane Coming to Topeka

The world's largest biplane, a replica Vickers Vimy, will land and be on display at **Forbes Field in Topeka, KS on Saturday, July 21, 2001 from noon-4pm.** The 190th Air Refueling Wing, Combat Air Museum and Experimental Aircraft Association Meadowlark Chapter 313 will host the Vimy's visit.

The Vimy will land at the airport and taxi to the Combat Air Museum late Saturday morning and be on display until 4:00 p.m. Locally owned biplanes, antique and experimental aircraft will also be on display. During the Vimy's visit, members of the Vimy Aircraft Project will be on hand to answer questions, sign autographs, and sell tee-shirts and hats to help support the Project. The Vimy will depart early Sunday, July 22 for Pella, Iowa.

The Vimy, which is the world's largest airworthy biplane, is on its way from Novato, CA to the EAA's AirVenture air show in Oshkosh, WI, where it will be one of the main attractions.

Local area sponsors for the Vimy visit include the **190th Air Refueling Wing, Combat Air Museum, Experimental Aircraft Association, Meadowlark Chapter 313, Airport Antiques, The Bonnie Johnson Team, Lewis Toyota, Mid-America Aviation, and Buena Terra Airpark.**

For More Information Contact:

(In Topeka) Kevin Drewelow, president, EAA Meadowlark Chapter 313
Office: 785.861.4535; home: 785.272.4916; cell: 785.224.7982; e-mail:
kdrewelow@yahoo.com

Maria Langer, Acting Media Coordinator and Webmaster, Vimy Aircraft Project
Office: 520/684-1233; cell: 520/231-0196; e-mail: webmaster@vimy.org

Visit our Press Center, <http://www.vimy.org/newsandevents/presscenter>

Important Notice to Pilots & Members of the Press

The Vimy will be flying from Novato, CA to Oshkosh, WI between July 12 and July 23.

Important Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change. The Vimy could appear at any of these locations a day earlier or a day later than the dates indicated. It might make entirely different stops. Unforeseen circumstances, including weather, engine problems, or other events could have a dramatic impact on this schedule. For up-to-date schedule information, call the Vimy Aircraft Project office at 866-THE-VIMY.

The Vimy will not fly in formation with any aircraft, including news helicopters, unless a formation flying briefing is held on the ground before the flight. There are no exceptions to this rule.

To arrange for a preflight briefing, contact Maria Langer, Media Coordinator, at webmaster@vimy.org or 520-231-0196.

World's Largest Biplane Coming To Topeka – Page 2

About the Vimy Aircraft Project

The Vimy Aircraft Project is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the pioneers of tomorrow by providing a vivid reminder that only the brave and imaginative bring about progress - not the critics and skeptics! The Project is spreading this message by re-enacting the three "first" flights made by Vickers Vimy biplanes near the beginning of the 20th century:

- **First nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean** (1919)
- **First flight from England to Australia** (1919)
- **First flight from London, England, to Cape Town, South Africa** (1920)

In 1994, Peter McMillan and Lang Kidby re-enacted the England to Australia flight. Their trip was featured as the cover story of the May 1995 issue of *National Geographic* magazine and was detailed in *The Greatest Flight* book and National Geographic video. In 1999, Mark Rebholz and John LaNoue re-enacted the London to Cape Town flight. The trip received extensive coverage in the May 2000 *National Geographic*, as well as the aviation press. Plans are currently underway for a re-enactment of the transatlantic flight, which is tentatively scheduled for June 2002.

The Vimy Aircraft Project is made possible through the generous donations of individuals and organizations worldwide. The Vimy's current sponsor list includes David R. Holbrooke, David E. McDowell, Campbell Aero Classics, and *Aeroplane* magazine. Individuals and organizations wishing to become sponsors should contact the project management at 415/332-6744.

You can learn more about the plane and the Project on its Web site, www.vimy.org.

About AirVenture

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture air show in Oshkosh, WI, is the world's largest air show. Held annually in July, it attracts thousands of pilots and aviation enthusiasts from around the world. You can learn more about AirVenture on its Web site, www.airventure.org.

Photo of the Vimy in flight over San Francisco Bay by Peter McBride.



Other Resources:

190th Air Refueling Wing www.kstope,ang.af.mil
The Bonnie Johnson Team: www.bonniejohnson.com
Combat Air Museum: www.combatairmuseum.org
Lewis Toyota: www.lewistoyota.com
Experimental Aircraft Association: www.eaa.org
Buena Terra Airpark: <http://members.tripod.com/buenaterra/index.htm>